

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A ceramic article containing aluminum, silicon, and titanium in a total amount of at least 99 % by weight as reduced to the oxides ($\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{SiO}_2 + \text{TiO}_2$), wherein the aluminum content is in the range of 70.0 – 99.5 % by weight calculated as Al_2O_3 , the silicon content is in the range of 0.06 – 12 % by weight calculated as SiO_2 and the titanium content is in the range of 0.08 – 30 % by weight calculated as TiO_2 , and [[when]] the acid strength of the ceramic article is such that when it is exposed to a methyl red indicator of pKa +4.8, the methyl red indicator changes color to its acid color.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) A method for the production of a ceramic article containing aluminum, silicon, and titanium in a total amount of at least 99 % by weight as reduced to the oxides ($\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{SiO}_2 + \text{TiO}_2$) comprising calcining a mixture containing an aluminum compound, a silicon compound, and a titanium compound at a temperature in the range of 1,000°C - 2,000°C, wherein, [[when]] the acid strength of the ceramic article is such that when it is exposed to a methyl red indicator of pKa +4.8, the methyl red indicator changes color to its acid color.

4. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the aluminum content in said ceramic article is in the range of 70.0 – 99.5 % by weight calculated as Al_2O_3 , the silicon content in said ceramic article is in the range of 0.06 – 12 % by weight calculated as SiO_2 and the titanium content in the range of 0.08 – 30 % by weight calculated as TiO_2 in said ceramic article.

5. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein said aluminum compound is α -alumina.

6. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein said silicon compound and said titanium compound are capable of forming an amorphous layer of silica and titania by being calcined together.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein said α -alumina has an alumina crystal diameter in the range of $0.1 - 5 \mu\text{m}$, a particle diameter in the range of $50 - 100 \mu\text{m}$, and a BET specific surface area in the range of $0.1 - 4 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

8-22. (Canceled)